

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-3 Building Date: 1903
Building Name: Ryon House
Location: 13125 11th Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description

The Ryon House is a large two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house which stands in a prominent position on the main road at the east edge of Bowie. It is a transition style house, an oversize example of the early twentieth century "Classic Box", with a few elements of Queen Anne trim. Entrance is in the first bay of the three bay main north gable end, through a fully glazed door with single-pane transom. The second bay of this facade is filled by a one-story, three-window projecting bay. The north facade is sheltered by a one-story porch which has turned posts and plain railing, and wraps around a portion of the east facade. The symmetrical cross gable arrangement of the roof forms a gable end at each of the four wide facades. The east facade is ornamented with a hip-roof oriel window between first and second level. The west facade has a one-story hip-roof projecting bay. There are two tall corbelled brick chimneys which rise from the north-south axis of the roof. Cornices are boxed with crown moldings, and returned at each of the gable ends. The building rests on a stone foundation which encloses a basement space. Across the rear south facade is a two-story enclosed porch.

Significance

The Ryon House is a prominent landmark in the town of Bowie, originally established as Huntington in 1870 at the junction of the Popes Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. In 1898 a group of lots in Block 31 of Huntington were offered at tax sale, and were purchased by the wife of Dr. Nelson Ryon. In 1903 the Ryons began construction of this family dwelling, a large and prominent building on the main road into Bowie from the east. The house plan was a variation of the square "Classic box" design which was popular during this decade. While abandoning the towers and ornamental window casings of the Queen Anne style, it retained the projecting bay and variation in wall surfaces, as well as an oriel window. Its cross gable roof also set it apart from the more popular hip-roof design. After Nelson Ryon's death, his widow sold the house and property to another physician, Dr. Thomas J. Wolfe of Washington, D.C. It passed in 1934 from the Wolfe family to the family of Dr. George Lancaster, the third physician to reside in the house. The house passed out of Lancaster family ownership in 1975. It has been well maintained and is a handsome and prominent landmark in the town of Bowie.

Acreage: .314 acre

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historicRyon House

and/or common Lancaster House

2. Location

street & number 13125 11th Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bowie ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Francis and Claudette Pelsor

street & number 13125 11th Street telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code Md. 20715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 5424

street & number Main Street folio 957

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-3

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ryon House is a large two-and-one-half-story cross-gabled frame house which stands in a prominent position on the main road at the east edge of Bowie. It is a transition style house, an oversize example of the early twentieth century "Classic Box", with a few elements of Queen Anne trim.

The house is roughly square, an irregular three bays by four bays. Entrance is in the first bay of the three bay main north gable end, through a fully glazed door with single-pane transom. The second bay of this facade is filled by a one-story, three-window projecting bay. The entire north facade is sheltered by a one-story porch which rests on brick piers and has turned posts and plain railing. The porch turns and wraps around a short portion of the east facade. It is accessible by a flight of wooden steps at the main entrance.

The symmetrical cross gable arrangement of the roof forms a gable end at each of the four wide facades. The east facade is ornamented with a hip-roof oriel window between first and second level in the third bay. The west facade has a one-story hip-roof projecting bay in its first bay; like that on the main north facade, this projecting bay is lighted by three 1/1 double hung sash windows.

The house is sheathed with German siding on the first story, and rectangular lapped shingle above; all siding is painted white. The windows are generally 1/1 double hung sash, with plain board surrounds; there are no shutters. There are two tall corbelled brick chimneys which rise from the north-south axis of the roof, just north and south of the east and west cross gables. Cornices are boxed with crown moldings, and returned at each of the gable end facades. At third level at each gable end are two small 2/2 side-by-side windows. The building rests on a stone foundation which encloses a basement space, accessible through a bulkhead entrance on the east facade.

Across the rear south facade is a two-story enclosed porch. The porch rests on a concrete foundation, and is sheathed with German siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-3

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1903

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Ryon House is a large frame house, an example of the popular "Classic Box" plan, varied by its cross-gable roof and Queen Anne style trim. It is a prominent landmark in the town of Bowie, originally established as Huntington.

Huntington was established in 1870 at the junction of the Popes Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. The developer circulated a Prospectus, advertising the sale of building lots, and the town began to develop within a few years. By the end of the century, the population numbered approximately 350 and there were more than eighty dwellings.¹

During these years members of the Ryon family settled in Bowie. Dr. Nelson Ryon lived and practiced in Bowie for several years before building the subject house. In 1898 a group of lots in Block 31 (between 10th and 11th Streets) were offered at tax sale, and were purchased by Dr. Ryon's wife, Eva. In 1903 the Ryons began construction of this family dwelling, a large and prominent building on the main road into Bowie from the east.² The house plan was a variation of the square "Classic box" design which was popular during this decade. While abandoning the towers and ornamental window casings of the Queen Anne style, it retained the projecting bay and variation in wall surfaces, as well as an oriel window. Its cross gable roof also set it apart from the more popular hip-roof design.

After Nelson Ryon's death, his widow sold the house and property (1931) to another physician, Dr. Thomas J. Wolfe of Washington, D.C. It passed in 1934 from the Wolfe family to the family of Dr. George Lancaster, the third physician to reside in the house. Dr. Lancaster was the son of Edward Lancaster (cf. #71B-13), who had settled in Bowie at the end of the nineteenth century and worked for the Railroad as Baggage Master. Members of the Lancaster family still live and work in the Bowie area.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-3

Cf. Notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ca. 314 acre

Tax Map 29, Block #31, lots 30-36

Quadrangle name Laurel, Section IQuadrangle scale 55-61

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting							Northing	

B

Zone	Easting							Northing	

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearlorganization Prince George's County Historic
Preservation Commissiondate August 1986street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPCtelephone 952-3521city or town Upper Marlborostate Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

#8. Continued

The house on 11th Street passed out of Lancaster family ownership in 1975. It has been well maintained and is a handsome and prominent landmark in the town of Bowie.

Notes

1 Prospectus of Huntington, 1870; Census for Prince George's County, 1880, 1990.

2 Prince George's County Deeds #6:119; #17:232; Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1900-1908; Census for Prince George's County, 14th District, 1900, 1910.

3 Prince George's County Deeds, #381:63; #422:44; #4567:818; #5424:957; Census for Prince George's County, 1900, 1910.

R-R
WILLIAM T HUBBERT
5373 / 083
4.80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-2-2

R-55

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

R-R

I-1

NEW JERSEY
STEEL CORP.
5545/680

NANCY BROWN
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

PG: 71B-2-3



PG#71B-2-3

Ryon House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-3

Ryon House
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
February 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-3

Ryon House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

February 1986

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD